

NWONA Board and community meeting

BOD meeting: Pocket park – got grant from city (\$1800) to develop. Goal is to have a long-term, low maintenance space. Meanwhile guerrilla gardeners have planted things that are growing, but not weeding or harvesting.

- Should we have a meeting with interested people? (Tall Trees, the guerrilla garden people, Karen Lohman, City of Olympia water resources and other city folks, etc.). Need a focused discussion and invite people with intention.
- Could have a work party after the meeting.
- Robin will email BOD members with proposed dates.

Community meeting notes:

Dick Machlan from Oly Police:

Burglaries:

- Admin Services manager for Police. Crime Prevention in his division. Has been in police for 35 years.
- No magic bullets to address crime but there are things we can do to reduce the target.
- Burglary: 20 incidents in NW Olympia since beginning of year. Seem to be related. Do have persons of interest. Seem to fit a pattern.
- Seem to be crimes of younger people – 16 to 20 years old. For example, lost food out of refrigerators, play stations, etc.
- Almost all occurred during daytime. 9 of 20 residences were not secured – a good prevention step is to lock the house even when gone a short time. Especially if easy to get into garage.
- Vehicle prowls also a problem in last couple of years – crime of opportunity – keep cars locked up.
- Also windows have been jimmied – make sure windows are in good repair but not absolutely preventive.
- The crimes have been widespread through neighborhood. Neighborhood block watches have been established – if you do not have one on your block, contact Amy Stull to help the block establish one. (Just helps add organization to the neighborhood – build a telephone tree to alert other neighbors.) We will schedule a future meeting about that.)
- If you know people who are not working or otherwise at home during day, ask them to be extra eyes and ears during work day.
- If there is something not right in the neighborhood, notify the police, e.g. if you see people who don't belong in the neighborhood. They would rather be notified 100 times for unnecessary calls than miss the one that would have helped. 704-2940 is the business number, can also call 911 if emergency. Not a problem if don't know, go ahead and call 911.
- Alarm system or dog not as much a deterrent to young thieves.
- If people are going around knocking on doors with lame excuses, that could be people checking out whether the house tends to be occupied during the day. (Call OPD.)

- Occasionally have gone into houses when people are home, but normally not.
- 11 houses that were locked: doors forced open, window screens removed (and window was open), broken windows, etc. Check whether you have easy places to get in.
- Home safety tips – handout provided.
- Inventory of your valuables is very helpful to police (serial numbers, etc.) – take pictures of valuables and keep on a CD. Would be easy to find jewelry at pawn shop if it is distinctive and police have a photo.
- Burglary = entering any locked space. Do report thefts as well (from yards etc). Would rather take many reports than not know information. Have a good crime analyst working for Police.
- Rare armed robbery has occurred (direct confrontation and taking something by force or fear). Almost always get solved.
- Vandalism question: has happened twice, reported to Police but did not get feedback.
- Suggestion – inform kids of seriousness of offense (at schools, e.g.).
- If people approach you and say they are representing a business, they need a license from the City of Olympia to be coming door to door.
- Rules for door to door – don't let people into your house unless you set up the appt.
- Examples – kids selling magazines, alarm systems were around last year. Let Police know if that is happening.
- Increase in property crime goes along with current economy.
- Even kids wear gloves – don't have good fingerprints for most of these crimes.
- Handout with website Police maintain – crime reports.com – can pull up a crime map of your local area. Can use case number to find out more about individual cases.
- Question about drug use in relation to crime – most of things that have been taken are not high value items, so may not be drug related. Usually jewelry, cash is missing in drug crimes. Some computers have been stolen in NW Oly.
- NW Oly crime has been worse than SW Oly.
- Question about patrolling neighborhoods – is it feasible? Not on bikes, staff is too small. Do try to patrol as often as they can. But that does not necessarily deter opportunistic crime.
- If sign up on crime reports website, you are automatically notified when crime happens in your neighborhood (takes about 2 days to send out email). (Only for crimes that result in a report.)
- Err on the side of calling police when you see people who don't belong – use your gut reaction. You may not hear back from Police unless you specifically ask for them to get back to you.
- Have had descriptions in 5 cases – different descriptions of young men, not a lot to go on. Live close by the neighborhood. Almost all occur midday (10 – 2).
- Suggestion to take a picture of people who come to your door (answer door with a cell phone in your hand).
- Have been 2 attempted burglaries at Coop lately – please notify police of attempts.
- Main take home message: If something does not look right to you, CALL. It takes lots of tips to produce results.

Vandalism and graffiti:

- City has program to gather information about graffiti.
- Truly frustrating crime. Hard to latch onto the people who are doing it.
- NE neighborhood association has been using tactics in graffiti busting program, very successful.
- PSE is responsible for their boxes.
- Public walls are city responsibility.
- Trash and recycle cans: public works dept will clean those.
- House was vandalized with orange graffiti (garage door) – take a picture and send in to police.
- Paint it out as quickly as possible. Amy can help convince landlord to act on it quickly.
- Not most graffiti is gang related. Most graffiti here is just tagging. Some few are artists and will use free walls, but most are not artists.
- Amy has told NWONA board that “tagging crews” go out together. Only takes 5 seconds so really hard to catch.
- A lot of tagging is done by big markers, not with paint.
- Go ahead and paint over telephone poles.
- Street Dept will paint stop signs.
- NWONA has 4 graffiti kits available. (Works best on markers.) Need to split up neighborhood in sections to monitor/report graffiti and figure out who is responsible to paint. Important to stay on top of what we are responsible for. Division and Harrison – city will take care of.
- Community Youth Services got a grant to pay kids to clean up key streets. Identified Rogers, Madison, and Garfield as the worst.
- Need to train the monitors. Will have a special meeting for that and will have maps to mark who will take on which area.
- Suggestion to clean up all the graffiti in one big effort and then see how much accumulates.
- Can do a combination of approaches.
- If you see someone tagging, or even acting suspicious, call 911.
- Will send information about where to send pictures, etc. to email list. (See-click-fix.)
- Will set up a follow up meeting on graffiti, with maps so people can volunteer for sections.

The local station (next to Garfield) is a spot for police to write reports etc – Amy’s office is there too. No receptionist staffs the building. There are usually only 5 or 6 officers on shift at any time. Emergency response is 4 minutes. Can call dispatch number to notify (if not emergency), but may take longer to respond. Officers will get there as fast as possible.